(b) Government has recently decided to disinvest 5% out of its equity shareholding of 100 per cent in Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) and also to disinvest 15% out of its equity shareholding of 98.384% in National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market. The disinvestment by Government in PFC would be through piggy-back on the public issue being done by PFC. The proceeds from disinvestment of Government equity in CPSEs would be channelised into the "National Investment Fund" (NIF). NIF has been constituted in 2005-06. The annual income of NIF will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment and to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable CPSEs that yield adequate returns, in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification.

(c) and (d) The Government will abide by the policy articulated in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Review of credit policies of banks

3228. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make banks to go beyond the traditional role of purveyors of credit and become collaborators with others in finding a holistic solution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction so far and in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) To enable the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to carry out their functions efficiently and without impediment, Government announced an autonomy package for the public sector banks on 22.02.2005 which, *inter alia*, allows them to pursue new lines of business as part of overall business strategy and make suitable acquisitions of companies or businesses, close/merge unviable branches, open overseas offices, set up subsidiaries and exit a line of business, subject to statutory requirements, Government policy prescriptions and regulatory guidelines issued by RBI from time to time.